



DAYS WITH THE IMAM

5

Memories from Tora Bora

By Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri
(May Allah Protect Him)





In the name of Allah the Most Merciful and the Most Compassionate



“Days with the Imam”

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(May Allah Protect Him)

Praise be to Allah, blessing and peace be upon the Messenger of Allah, his family, companions and those who followed him.

O Muslim brothers in every place, peace be upon you and the mercy of Allah and his blessings.

And then,

This is the fifth of the episodes of "Days with the Imam", where we recall some of the beautiful memories which I experienced during my company with the Mujahid reviver Imam Sheikh Usama bin Laden, may Allah huge mercy on him and join us with him in good.

In the previous episode I started discussing about the memories of Tora Bora, and I told that I would begin pointing towards the friends and the foes. And at first I talked about the friends and companions; I began with remembering the scholar Sheikh Younus Khalis, may Allah have huge mercy on him. After him I mentioned the martyred knight, the commander, the teacher Awwal Gul, may Allah huge mercy on him, then Qari Abd Al-Ahad, may Allah have huge mercy on him.

And I want to emphasize and repeat that I discuss about the martyrs. As for the living, then I do not discuss about them being eager and afraid about them, since the war is still at its peak, and the enemy is waiting restlessly for a sign of information. But to these living we owe goodness, we cannot forget them and we will never forget them by the permission of Allah. And we ask Allah - Glorified and Exalted - that He helps us so that we may give them something in return to their goodness. And if we fail to return this goodness to them, then we ask Allah - glorified and exalted - that He -Glorified and Exalted - takes responsibility of their rewards for us. In fact, these living, for them we have all of appreciation, all of love, all of respect, and all of gratefulness. And Allah willing, a day will come when we will raise our voices while singing about their memories, credits and their graces on us, the Mujahideen and the Jihadi movement.

And before recording this episode I discussed with a brother about Tora Bora and the blockade in Tora Bora, then he reminded me of the blockade in Homs, and it is a blockade on our people in Sham in Homs, and how the United Nations cheated them. That despicable organization which is controlled by five of the greatest criminals in this world to deceive the world and to say that there are human rights, while in reality, there are rights of these five! Those who publish the global announcement for human rights and claim, "We treat every human equally" but in reality they are deceiving. As I had mentioned in the book "Knights Under the Banner of the Prophet - may Allah bless him and grant salvation", in the third edition. I stated that these despicable ones tell that they treat every human equally without any discrimination for religion or nationality; while they conceal about two major divide with which they discriminate between humans:

- The first one is: The division by nationality, thus they cause division in the single Ummah through land. Thus, this is Syrian, this is Egyptian, this is Indian and this is Pakistani, while we actually are a single Ummah. And the objective of this is dividing the Muslim Ummah into more than fifty states after it had been a single one.

- The second distinction which it does not mention is: The division by power. They talk about democracy, equity, justice and all these adulterated products, but they actually cause division among the people with power. Thus there are five powers which rule this world and show dominance over the rest of the humans who are of the third grade.

Actually this despicable organization deceived our people in Homs, it got them out of the blockade as it claims and delivered them to the savages of Assad in his jails now. And as it will be mentioned in this remembrance -if Allah wills-, that this offer was also presented to us in Tora Bora that we go out of the blockade and surrender ourselves to the United Nations, but by the grace of Allah -Glorious and Exalted- we refused it, and told that surely, we will either go out alive or we will fight until we die; and praise be to Allah -Glorious and Exalted- for this ability.

I am returning to the story of Tora Bora and to the discussion of the friends. Today I want to discuss about one of the martyred knights who helped us in Tora Bora in every possible manner. He is the martyred knight Maulavi Nur Muhammad, may Allah bestow huge mercy on him. This lion is from the lions of Islam whose pure and clear nature was hardened by hardships and calamities. This man was a scholar, a Mujahid and was from the youths of the Mujahid scholars. He was from the tribe of a minister in Jalalabad. He was an official in the Taliban administration. He used to administrate a post which they call "Waliswal". This "Waliswal" means, for example, as we say in our country "City Mayor" or "Mayor of City Council", that is, an official division under the governor.

Thus, he was an official in the Taliban administration. And when the campaign of the crusaders was unleashed upon Afghanistan, he immediately allied with the Mujahideen. And when we came to Tora Bora, this knightly man ascended up the hill and came to us along with a group of Mujahideen. We met him and he said to Sheikh Usama bin Laden "I am subservient to your orders, ask me whatever you wish and I will fulfill as much as I can".

This man was martyred after Tora Bora and I reckon that the hypocrites among the agents of the Americans killed him. And he along with his brother was killed in Peshwar in Pakistan and may Allah bestow immense mercy on him.

This is Maulvi Nur Muhammad, he ascended up the hill and helped us in any way that could be possible. And I remember that he along with some other Ansar (supporters) and some brothers made a pledge with Sheikh Usama bin Laden that this is a brotherhood among them both in this world and the hereafter. And Praise be to Allah -Glorious and Exalted-, He honored me to be present in the pledge and I had extended my hand in the midst of their hands and pledged allegiance to the Sheikh along with them. I ask Allah -Glorious and Exalted- that he accepts this from us.

And I remember a funny thing that Maulavi Nur Muhammad asked me: "Where is Ayman Az-Zawahiri? We've heard that he was attacked and killed." So I laughed and said: "No, he is

present."

And I remember telling him: "O Maulavi, we are now like our master Hussain bin Ali -may Allah be pleased with them both- engulfed by the enemies around us." Then he said, "Indeed by Allah, we are like Husain bin Ali."

Maulavi Nur Muhammad had helped us a lot. The most eminent aid that Maulvi Nur Muhammad gave us there was that he used to communicate with the local leaders from the people of Jalalabad. He presented some of them before us, and he also presented before us a tribal leader in Jalalabad who was responsible in a post of the Taliban. Then when the government of hypocrites came, he turned into a deputy there too! And this is one of the astonishments of war. You find pure friends and pure enemies, and between these two, a group like this meets you in every place and every time. This man actually turned into an official deputy under the new government of the hypocrites when the Americans came, but his desire was spread in between power -which he desired to not leave- and his love for the Mujahideen. Then, this man came to us and ascended the hill towards us, and his psychological dilemma was clear on his face. Then Shaykh Usama bin Laden, -may Allah have mercy on him- (out of his experience and knowledge in handling war situations) told him: "We are your brothers, Mujahideen, Muhajireen (emigrant), Ghurabaa (strangers) and travelers. And these are very problematic things for the Afghans. We are your Arab brothers participating with you in Jihad; we do not want anything from you; the war is between us and the Americans; then why would you enter herein?"

Then the man became very excited and said: "No no, I promise you that no harm will come to you from my side." Then the Sheikh said to him: "I also want that you aid us." He said: "I will aid you and provide you aid and supplies."

This man was a participant in the blockade of Tora Bora and he was in charge of a section of the blockade around us. And this is indeed one of the astonishments of war!

As for the Afghan people, they naturally hate the crusaders and prides itself that it is the nation which overpowered the English, and that they are the nation which the English could not occupy. Whenever they swear anyone, they say, "This is an English"! Even when they give anything to the Americans out of outward affection, inside their hearts they curse them.

This man told to Sheikh Usama bin Laden: "I promise you that no harm will ever disturb you from my side." Then the Sheikh told him: "We also want that you aid us and supply us with some bombs and equipment." He said: "I am at your service." The Sheikh gave him an amount of money so that he buys for him. Then said: "Good, Allah willing, I will do this for you." And the Sheikh told him: "I also want another service from you." He said; "What?" He said: "You will seek from the Maulavi and Mullah speakers in the Khutbah of Jumu'a in your region that they inspire the people for Jihad against the Americans, and that they make clear for them that these Americans occupy Afghanistan and that Jihad (against them) is incumbent. Then the man promised him. And I do not know if he fulfilled this promise or not.

The important thing is that this man had an astonishing story with us. This man, as I have stated

before was in charge of a section of the blockade. And a brother, who was an assistant to Ibn Sheikh al-Libi –may Allah have mercy on him- and was responsible for managing the battle of Tora Bora, along with one of the Ansar (local helper), decided to attack the village of this man without the knowledge of the Sheikh. And this village was situated beside the hill which we were in or beside the mountain range we were at.

So he (the assistant) took a group of brothers and descended from the hill, attacked this village with mortar shells, I do not know if any other bombs too was used. And after this attack they returned. This man then sent a message to the Sheikh saying: "I have told you that surely no harm will ever come to you from me, so why was this this on me?"

And by the grace of Allah -Glorious and Exalted- these shells did not strike anyone. So the Sheikh, may Allah have mercy on him, called for this brother and he was one of the early ones from the Mujahideen and one of the best of the Mujahideen, and the Shaykh said to him: "O brother, what is that which you have done?!" So he said to him: "I wanted to destroy those blockading us with exterminating operations." He (the Shaykh) said to him: "Did you inform us or did you inform the leadership?" He said: "No, but I independently did this." He said: "O brother, fear Allah, we are in a very very complex situation, if you independently work like this it is possible that the balance would turn against us. And we are trying every way to split the ranks of those blockading us, so beware, again beware that you repeat this another time."

This is one of the assistance that Moulavi Nur Muhammad gave us.

Moulavi Nur Muhammad also continued with us after this till the last moment in Tora Bora, and he owned a very very great achievement, and I am mentioning it for the first time today, I do not know if the Americans know this or not, but I am telling this for angering them, and that it is that Moulavi Nur Muhammad is the one who got Sheikh Usama out from Tora Bora.

I have mentioned once before that the martyred knight: the leader, the teacher Awwal Gul, may Allah have mercy on him, is the one who got Sheikh Usama bin Laden, may Allah have mercy on him, out of Jalalabad. The one who got Sheikh Usama bin Laden out from Tora Bora, from the hills to an easier place, he was Moulavi Nur Muhammad and his men, may Allah bestow huge mercy on him.

This was actually a great grace from Moulavi Nur Muhammad on the Mujahideen that he made easy the exit of Sheikh Usama bin Laden from the mountain range of Tora Bora. And Allah willing, soon I will bring you, how the Sheikh arranged the retreat and it was a successful retreat by the grace of Allah -Glorious and Exalted-.

Of course, the whole world was observing Tora Bora at that time, and the entire crusader coalition was centered on Tora Bora, and the Americans were telling "Surely when finish dealing with Usama bin Laden and those with him in Tora Bora, then the issue would over; the problem of Afghanistan and the war would be over". But Allah – the Glorious and Exalted- by his will and power facilitated us with these brothers who got Sheikh Usama bin Laden out from the blockade and also got their

brothers out from the blockade as I will mention, Allah willing.

Surely, the story of the exit of the Sheikh from the blockade of Tora Bora, it's a long story; I will mention it later. But as an addition about Maulavi Nur Muhammad, he was not the only one sympathetic towards us in Tora Bora, in fact there were many who were sympathetic towards us, among them were the people of the locality themselves. Maulavi Nur Muhammad -may Allah have mercy on him- used to tell us that when he used to gather a group from his brothers with their weapons and equipment and started marching towards the hill to ascend towards Tora Bora, an old woman saw them, then she thought that they were going to fight us. He told: "This old woman kept on cursing us and telling, 'You fight the Arabs', and she used to curse us with destruction and death, and that Allah might deprive us and deal with us." He told: "We were silent, while the woman was cursing us."

And he also told us that a man came to him and told him: "I know that you will ascend towards the hill for the Arab brothers and I have nothing except this sack of Sudanese beans, so I request you, carry this to the Arab brothers in the hill, something that will aid them for remaining and staying firm in the hill."

He also informed us that in one of the mosques of the villages which were around the hill, in the prayer of Friday, a man from the people of the village stood up and invoked against this hypocrite government and told, "You, Allah will deal with you and will strike you with calamities, as the sons of the companions of the Prophet are (may Allah bestow mercy on him and grant him salvation) in the hill and you are fighting and blockading them, you will soon see what it gains you."

There are many many significant stories which passed by us. And there are complete villages which helped us, gave us shelter and aided us. And there is an amazing thing which we saw, that in some of these places the leaders of the tribes and clans in those areas would come and seek Sheikh Usama bin Laden that he write a certificate for them that he has met them in this war and that they have helped him, that they were among his brothers whom they trusted. And they used to say, "We will preserve this, out of pride that Sheikh Usama bin Laden praised us and we greeted and aided him." And this is one of the amazing things about the Afghan people.

Also there were with us among the Ansars who used to get severe threats from the hypocrite government. And I will come to the description of Hadi Deen Muhammad, who turned on his heels (from jihad) losing the world and the hereafter. And at this time he was likely an assistant of the governor or the deputy governor in Jalalabad. So he threatened someone from those who were cooperating with us and told him: "If you do not leave the Arabs, soon the Americans will send fifty planes to your village and will exterminate it from existing."

And actually, the Americans did deploy an airstrike on his village and destroyed the village and killed almost everyone from his family except his mother and a small child. They killed fifty oppressed monotheist Muslims and from his village and from his household, eighteen were killed as martyrs, we ask Allah -Glorious and Exalted- that he covers them with his mercy. And even with this, the Ansari and other Ansaris from his brothers did not leave us but continued with us till the

last moment.

Also there was a village which aided us and with whom the Sheikh contracted on jihad and fighting, they promised him and told: "We know that this war, there will soon be severe destruction on our village, so we ask you for permission to evacuate our people from this village to safer areas, and after that we will come and join you in the fight." Then the Sheikh approved and told them: "I will give every family economic aid from my side for helping them in Hijrah (migration)." And we considered them to be truthful, for that they gave us shelter and did not ask anything from us. But after that, the war was more ferocious.

Obviously, it is necessary that we realize how the situation were in those days. The terror was very severe, and the Americans and their agents used to spread rumors on strange issues. They used to say that surely the Americans could see everything, and that they had weapons with them which if they shoot on the Kalashnikov, it would melt, and that they could see what was inside the houses.

And the scene of Tora Bora from its border was terrifying. When I myself got out of Tora Bora as I would tell, and I saw Tora Bora from the outside, it was a terrifying scene. That is, had you seen the rockets at night you would see the entire area light up due to the columns of fire. So praise be to Allah, we were in Tora Bora, Allah bestowed on us tranquility, but those outside were saying, "This is a crematory for the Arab, the Ansar and the Muhajireen in Tora Bora." Within this terror, these simple, poor people were helping us with everything they had.

And I have already mentioned this a few times, that we had learnt lessons on relying (upon Allah) and Tawheed (monotheism) in this calamity, and that most of the turbaned and bearded people, owners of ranks and owners of certificates who write books on Tawheed and teach it, in reality they must go to this school and repeat their lesson on Tawheed. Because, indeed, in reality their Tawheed is immature, and their Tawheed is curtailed. And as said by the Usthadh Shaykh Muhammad Yaseer, we consider him to be a martyr, Allah's mercy be upon him: "Indeed there are among the scholars, who have reached the highest degree of scholarship, but in Imaan they are in the degree of the Munafiqeen (hypocrites)" - we ask Allah wellbeing.

And Praise be to Allah, we have seen in these simple, poor people, lessons on Tawheed (monotheism) and Tawakkul (reliance) on Allah. The issue is simple: This is a Kafir, an enemy of Islam; and this is a Mu'min, a Muslim, friend of the Muslims. The issue has become simple to them, this is a mujahid, I will help him; and this is a Kafir, there is no way except that I a fight him in war. With this excellent nature, these people used to work with us.

And in this stage of extremely severe terror, you know that the first shock is the severest in war in general and also in the guerrilla war. And in the stage of the first shock, this was the stance of these simple, poor people with us; and many of them, they were laymen in knowledge. They probably only knew the rules of the rituals and how to perform them and the basic pillars of Islam. They did not have doctorates, nor degrees, nor positions, or the things which corrupt Iman and mix Tawheed. Mujahideen from other areas also used to communicate with us and regret to us

saying, "We want to come to you but we cannot."

And one of the amazing stories which I remember is about the sympathy of the laymen towards us. When the brothers began making their bases in Tora Bora after 9/11 and before the beginning of the war, they arranged for themselves houses in the city of Jalalabad as rear bases for those who want to go for treatment or wants to buy something or for communication or for something from the matters which a Mujahid needs. And sometimes the brothers would organize such as vacations. The important thing is that there was a house or guesthouse for the Arabs in Jalalabad.

When Jalalabad fell to the hands of the hypocrites the Taliban Mujahideen of the Islamic Emirate retreated because they decided to go from the stage of confrontation to the stage of guerrilla warfare, and leave the city and go to the hills and villages in a successful strategy with which they broke the crusader coalition, defeated it, forced the Americans to accept defeat and search for a way to go out from Afghanistan. We ask Allah -Glorious and Exalted- that he repeats it soon for the Islamic Emirate, Allah willing. And that Ameerul Mu'mineen Mullah Muhammad Umar returns to house of his Emirate in Kandahar soon, Allah willing. And we ask Allah -Glorious and Exalted- that He honors us with the renewal of Bay'ah (pledge of allegiance) to him there soon, Allah willing.

When the hypocrites entered Jalalabad they started, as you know, for the Americans, with the issue of the selling of the Arabs. So all of them were searching for the remaining of the Arabs in Jalalabad so that they could sell them to the Americans. So a group of these armed hypocrites went to this guesthouse. And there was a guard who was in charge for this guesthouse, a man whom we consider pious, so they told him, "We want to enter this guesthouse", so he forbade them. Because, there was a brother in the guesthouse and did not know about the fall of Jalalabad. So they guessed that they would enter and find Arab brothers, then imprison them and sell them to the Americans. Then this trustful guard, may Allah reward him with the best of reward for us, prevented these hypocrites from entering the guesthouse. So he continued arguing with them and they continued arguing with him and trying to enter the guesthouse forcefully.

The significant thing in this arguing and quarreling is that the brother (in the guesthouse) got aware and fled from the guesthouse, he jumped from the wall to another house and then, went by a number of houses. And the brothers used to call him "the living martyr" because they had assumed him to be martyred until he reported to us after he had gone to a house and hided in a chicken-house for a period of time until the situations calmed down and the pursuit ceased.

Then he had got out of this house and had walked in Jalalabad, not knowing where he would go. He told, "I entered a street in this way, then was walking and all the people were looking at me and I found it strange why the people were looking at me", then the cause was discovered and it was that this road was blocked and everyone in it was from the inhabitants of the area and the inhabitants of this street, and he was a stranger, so they were looking at him where he was going. When he found the road blocked he got confused, then one of the inhabitants of this street had told him, "Come on", then talked to him and told, "Where do you want to go?" So he had told, "I am looking for a friend" or any matter like this. Then he (the man) told him, "Come on", then he

entered him to his house. Then he had told him, "I know that you are an Arab, and that you are searching a way to exit, now it is nighttime, so you cannot go out now, instead stay at my house till the morning. And Allah willing, as long as I am alive, you are alive, if I am killed in Allah's cause -Glorious and Exalted- he will take care of you!"

So the brother had told him: "May Allah reward you the best reward." He said, "I found his son studying in a religious school made by the Taliban. So I told, 'Glory be to Allah, this is one of the blessings of the Taliban; Allah has benefited me with a blessing of the Taliban."

The great thing is that he stayed with him till morning, and got out of his house and he (the man) had guided him to the road, then he had said, "You will go in this path and ascend towards an area of hills of the hilly Tora Bora." He said that while he was on the road, he needed to buy something from the shop, so he went in and bought something from the shopkeeper and went out, the shopkeeper realized that he was an Arab, so he went out behind looking where he was going. He said, "I went, but in the wrong path and I had not said anything to the shopkeeper. Then the shopkeeper called me and told: "Come on, come on, your path is from here!"

And we contend with this episode.

Glory be to You O Allah and we praise You, I testify that there is no God except You, I ask You for forgiveness and I return to You. And our last invocation is that praise is for Allah, the Lord of the worlds. And may Allah bestow mercy on our master Muhammad, his family and companions and may he grant salvation.

And peace be upon you, the mercy of Allah and his blessings.

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